

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 248386

14

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PBULLEN:MAR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA/ARN:AR DAY

NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S-O:JHOGANSON

P:JJSISCO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 248386

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: DIALOGUE WITH SYRIA ON LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: A. STATE 243490

B. STATE 244360

C. TEL AVIV 6568

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. IN ANY FUTURE CONVERSATIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT IN DISCUSSING ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS (REF A, PARA 3), YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT IT IS ALSO OUR IMPRESSION THAT INTERVENTION IN LEBANON BY SUBSTANTIAL INTER-ARAB FORCE COULD RISK TOUCHING OFF ISRAELI INTERVENTION, DEPENDING ON NATURE AND MANDATE OF FORCE. YOU MAY DRAW ON STATE 244360 FOR DETAILS ON THIS POINT.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 248386

2. AS INDICATED REF A, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS POINT BE MADE PURELY AS PART OF OUR ANALYSIS OF FACTUAL SITUATION IN EFFORT ESTABLISH PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH SYRIANS. WE WOULD NOT WANT SYRIANS TO VIEW IT EITHER AS THREAT OR AS MESSAGE WHICH WE WERE PASSING TO THEM ON BEHALF OF ISRAELIS, SINCE NEITHER IS THE CASE.

3. OUR PURPOSE IN SENDING THIS IS SIMPLY TO SUGGEST THAT YOU AVOID RELATING ISRAELI REACTION SPECIFICALLY TO POSSIBLE SYRIAN INTERVENTION. PHRASE YOU USED IN YOUR TALK WITH ASAD--"FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES"--WAS ALL RIGHT. WE JUST WANT TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION OF THREAT TO SYRIA. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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